

Minutes

Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group

November 18, 2016, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

*Location: Call in option: (206) 263-0100
Chinook Building, Room 121, 1st floor
400 5th Ave, Seattle 98104*

Members Present:

Scarlett Aldebot-Green, Michael Brown, Deanna Dawson, David Fleming, Ubax Gardheere, Betsy Jones, Jeff Natter, Adrienne Quinn, Sili Savusa, Adam Taylor, Tony To and Michael Woo

Staff Present:

Sharon Bogan, Nadine Chan, Veronica Gonzalvo, Alice Ito, Cheryl Markham, Marguerite Ro, Aaron Robertson and Kirsten Wyses

Guests:

Andrea Estes, Ballmer Group and Gregory Davis, Rainier Beach Action Coalition

Welcome and introductions

Michael Brown welcomed Communities of Opportunity (COO) Interim Governance Group (IGG) members, staff and guests to the meeting. Betsy Jones served as meeting facilitator. She introduced the two guests—Andrea and Gregory.

Review IGG Subgroup's "Theory of Change"

- Alice reported on the Theory of Change (TOC) and walked the group through the subgroup's most recent slides. Marguerite reviewed the TOC on slide 3. The group discussed the Learning Community (LC) and its potential to contribute to COO's shared results in 2017.
- One committee member raised the need to have technical assistance available to support policy and systems changes that could supplement place-based work and act on the barriers experienced by the places.
- Another member asked about the next steps for making these policy and systems changes? What are we doing to change? Is it through organizing? Who is doing what? How could the learning community connect the dots so people know how to contribute?
- The IGG discussed who would be in the first learning community cohort. The learning community could be a new source of support for community partners working on health, housing, economic opportunity and community connections. The learning community also could incubate community organizations to be ready to participate in place-based and policy/systems change work.
- The learning community could be a place that calls out and works to remove barriers that cut across communities. It could convene and support groups so they are ready to act.
- Back of the house infrastructure is often missing for smaller organizations and groups. COO could support an entity to standardize back of the house administrative functions.

- An IGG member recommended adding “health” to several Learning Community and TOC slides.

Proposed COO workplan for 2017 – Betsy Jones and Michael Brown

- Betsy reviewed staffing updates and said the new COO Initiative Director will come on in December and will likely attend the IGG meeting that month.
- There was a suggestion to make sure the open positions are circulated to all IGG members to send to their networks.

What are we learning from the 2014 policy/systems grantee highlights?—Aaron and Nadine

- Aaron reviewed lessons learned from the first round of policy/systems grantees.
- Nadine reported on what we are learning from COO policy/systems change grantees.

There was discussion about the need for a more developed common agenda. The policy context is often changing, so being flexible is needed. The topics we face in the future may present us with unforeseen opportunities and challenges. For example, some North precinct money is being shifted to housing and Black Lives Matter and Standing Rock groups are active movements now. The Regional Equity Network is working with United Indians of All Tribes to take advantage of moments when people are activated.

There was a discussion about how the 2017 policy/systems grants could be linked to the headline indicators. For example, housing affordability policy progress was made in Seattle, but less policy change took place in South KC. The learning community offers a chance to extend the non-profit infrastructure throughout the county. The first policy/systems grants were more open ended. The second round grants were tied to the headline indicators. IGG can consider how to keep connecting to outcomes in the third round as COO moves forward. Policies have been enacted, capacity has been built through the COO grants. How are we measuring these changes?

There was discussion about the issue of homelessness and the role of COO, and how COO could support and coordinate with existing efforts working to reduce the number of people who are homeless in the region.

Cheryl Markham presented information about a pre-application process for the three existing sites

Backbone funding has been invested in the three sites in 2015 and 2016. Cheryl walked the group through a draft pre-application packet for the first round of implementation funding, which will also gather feedback regarding the next round of backbone funding. She described the differences between implementation funds and backbone funds.

Implementation funds support the implementation of activities and interventions, including projects and programs, that address an individual site’s adopted strategies in the COO RBA framework. Implementation activities must have performance measures that track with the outcomes/indicators of the COO RBA framework.

The IGG members liked the strategy table template, which they thought demonstrated that the goals are serious. This is a step toward community ownership. The pre-application process is a technical assistance-oriented process. The four year time horizon allows the sites to plan strategically and include about activities that may start later than this year. The IGG members liked the standardization of forms, as this builds capacity in organizations and makes comparisons easier. Site partners will also be increasing their capacity, as they use the documents to plan for implementing strategies through COO. The additional work will give more clarity for the eventual RFP responses. Sites should add the names and amounts of other potential other sources of funding.

IGG members asked what criteria will be used to decide what to fund? There was a discussion about distinguishing between building organizational capacity and implementing strategies.

The pre-application forms will go out next week so the sites will have at least six weeks to respond. It will be due the first or second week of January.

Cheryl also reviewed a two-page summary of the SPARCC proposal that was submitted on Nov 11, 2016.

Next IGG meetings:

- Dec. 16, 2-4 pm, Room 126, 401 5th Ave, Seattle (Chinook Building)
- 2017 schedule will be monthly on the 3rd Friday's of the month